

August 2, 2006

The Board of County Road Commissioners for Montcalm County held a meeting at its office located in Stanton, Michigan at 3:00 p.m. on August 2, 2006.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Jack Johnson, Superintendent; Robert Buckowing, County Highway Engineer; and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the minutes of July 20, 2006 as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Abe Schrock, James Wilson and William Bartlett, who all own property adjacent to the current road right-of-way for Newcomb Road west of Douglas Road in Section 14 of Ferris Township, came before the Board to discuss their original road abandonment request, which was discussed at a public hearing held on July 5, 2006. The Board had postponed a decision until Mr. Schrock could be present, because he was unable to attend the July 5th public hearing. Mr. Schrock's property is located at the end of the right-of-way; however, his property fronts on McBride Road from which he has access. The Board asked Mr. Schrock if he had an opinion about the request either for against, and he stated that he does not use the road. Dale Linton asked Mr. Schrock if he would be hindered in selling his property if the road was abandoned, and Mr. Schrock said that at this time he did not think it would make a difference. Bob Brundage asked Mr. Schrock if he had a preference either way, and Mr. Schrock said he did not and that he was planning on selling the property and had no objection to the road being abandoned. The Board asked Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bartlett if they had worked out an easement across Mr. Bartlett's property so that Mr. Wilson could continue to access his property if the road is abandoned, and they stated they had. Mr. Wilson asked what the next step would be in regard to the easement; Karen Swan explained that the Road Commission would have no say in regard to the easement; the easement would be between him and Mr. Bartlett and it was suggested that the easement be recorded with the Register of Deeds. Bob Brundage stated that he was in favor of abandoning the road; however, he was reluctant to make a motion in that regard until Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bartlett provided written proof of the recorded easement so that Mr. Wilson's property would not be landlocked. Dale Linton and Donald McCracken concurred. Karen Swan suggested that the Board could make a motion stating the abandonment of the road would be contingent upon Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bartlett providing a copy of the easement showing the liber and page number after it is recorded; and once that is received the Board could make a formal motion to abandon the road.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, that the Board will formally abandon the road right-of-way for Newcomb Road, Section 14, Ferris Township, commencing at the centerline of Douglas Road and traveling west 0.30 mile to the end, at such time that the abutting property owners, James Wilson and William Bartlett, provide to the Road Commission a copy of a recorded easement indicating that Mr. Bartlett is providing Mr. Wilson permanent access to his property. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There was a discussion regarding Deaner Road between Black Road and Gravel Ridge Road and Sandyland Farms' request that the road be graveled and considered for paving as discussed at the July 20, 2006 board meeting. Because of the large amount of heavy truck traffic that uses the road to access their storage buildings, Sandyland Farms has offered to make a very substantial contribution to help pay for the project. The Board stated that we would have to see what the Road Commission's refund will be from the Michigan County Road Commission Self-Insurance Pool (MCRCSIP) and that would determine how much we could do. From what we were told at the recent self-insurance pool's annual meeting, we should be receiving a significant refund in the next few weeks, and the Board feels any available funds should be used on the roads because that is what the public expects.

Manager's Report

- The worker's compensation claim for one of our now former employees was settled last week for an amount far less than the original demand. All of the pertinent paperwork has been signed, and the employee has resigned from the Road Commission.
- MDOT has asked that we start the second mowing on the state trunklines on August 14th; which we plan to do.
- The recently vacated truck driver position in Douglass Township was posted and signed by an employee in a floater's position. Does the Board want the floater's position posted or filled? Per the Board—not at this time; with our MTF funds steadily declining we need to take a wait-and-see approach.
- We hope to start sealing next week; everything should be up and running by then. With the extremely high temperatures the last few days, it is good that our people were not sealing.
- Spoke with the representative from FibreSeal about a demonstration project, and he stated that the price of emulsion has gone sky high in the last few weeks and that it isn't feasible. I figured what a mile of road would cost based on his current price, and it would actually cost a little less to put a 165-pound asphalt overlay on a road!

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Clerk's Report

- Mike Cavanaugh has advised us that the Spring Grove Road trial scheduled on August 25th has been postponed again—likely to September 22nd.
- I have started working on the 2007 budget—funding doesn't look much better next year unless something significant happens. Is there anything in particular you want me to look at? Try to include at least one float truck and two or three patrol wings.
- The County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund will be holding its annual safety meeting in conjunction with the Northern meeting on September 6th; the Board has to select a voting delegate and alternate.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to authorize Randy Stearns as voting delegate and Donald McCracken as alternate at the County Road Association Self-Insurance Fund's annual meeting to be held on September 6, 2006. Motion carried.

Superintendent's Report

- McBride Road east of Entrican was crushed earlier this summer; if we are not going to re-pave it before winter, we should put down a heavy application of 38% chloride. Per the Board, if the MCRCSIP refund is what we are expecting, we hope to have enough to re-pave McBride Road between Grow Road and Musson Road before this winter. If not, we will have 38% chloride applied.
- The third round of chloride has been set up; weather permitting, Michigan Chloride will be applying chloride every day in August in our county.

Engineer's Report

- Discussed the new plat located west off Berridge Road just south of M57 in Eureka Township. The developer wants to drain some of the water from the plat across Berridge Road and wants to open cut the road. I told the developer's engineer that Berridge Road was paved in three years ago and there was no way we were going to allow him to open cut the road. I suggested that he run the water under the plat's entrance road and then south to the existing cross-culvert. The engineer does not favor this plan. The Board agreed that the developer will not be allowed to open cut the road and should drain the water under the platted road to the south and to the existing cross-culvert.

Commissioners' Comments

- Discussed the possibility of further streamlining in the event that MTF funding continues to fall and fuel prices and materials continue to rise. Like it or not, we need to look at all possibilities and be prepared with a plan in the event we need to make changes.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the 8/2/06 bills totaling \$91,053.75 and Payroll #16 totaling \$73,528.49. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Chairman

Clerk